# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Import of Pulses
Galla Shri Jayadev

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) the total quantum of pulses imported by the Government during the last three years, year and variety-wise;
(b) the reasons for increase in prices of pulses despite having buffer stocks in the country;
(c) whether the Government did not send pulses from buffer stock to States facing shortages and if so, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether a high level meeting was held under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance on the issue and if so, the details and the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and
(e) whether India and Mozambique have entered into agreement for import of pulses and if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The Government imported 5000 MT of Tur from Malawi in 2015. No imports were undertaken by Government during the previous two years i.e. 2013 and 2014.

(b) : The recent rise in prices of pulses is mainly on account of shortfall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions and increase in demand because of rise in population and per capita income and change in food habits. In addition, speculation, cartelization, black-marketing/hoarding also put pressure on prices. However, the buffer stock of pulses have helped moderated the prices of pulses.

(c) : No. Madam. The pulses from buffer stock are allocated to the States/UTs.

(d) : Yes, Madam. The meeting inter alia recommended enhancing the buffer stock designing an appropriate methodology for fixing Minimum Support Prices (MSP); allocation of pulses from buffer stock to States; continued enforcement activities against hoarder, etc.

(e) : Yes, Madam. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mozambique aims at promoting the production of Pigeon Peas/Tur and other pulses in Mozambique through active cooperation between the two countries by encouraging progressive increase in the trading of these pulses, with the objective of doubling the trade in pulses in five years.

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